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Y O U T H W A N T S
T O K N O W

Founded and Produced by Theodore Granik

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1958

YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW PRESENTS

A. A. BLAGONRAVOV, ACADEMICIAN, MEMBER
OF THE SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, USSR

IRVING R. LEVINE

Moderator

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THE ANNOUNCER: This is Moscow, traditional center of
Soviet power.

YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW is here today with American students
to interview leading Soviet officials to initiate the first
exchange of television programs between the two leading nations
of the world.

And now from the Moscow television center studios we present your Moderator, Irving R. Levine, NBC's Bureau Chief to the Soviet Union.

MR. LEVINE: Our guest today is an outstanding Soviet scientist who played a role in the development of the Soviet Sputniks. Dr. Abatoli Blagonravov, Academician, member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

I would like you to meet our students from Hollins College in Roanoke, Virginia.

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: I am very happy to see you here in Moscow, you representatives of American youth.

It is very interesting to meet youth like you, representatives of the youth who I know are usually very inquisitive and I am sure this get-together will give mutual satisfaction.

QUESTION: Professor, do you plan to launch a man-carrying satellite in the near future?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: In launching the Sputnik we will first of all be fulfilling the program which was mapped for the IGY. It is natural that the launching of every Sputnik gives us more and more new data and therefore the program will be developing with the launching of every new satellite. Sooner or later most probably we will be able to send up a man-carrying Sputnik that will be circling the earth. I can't say when that will be at present.

QUESTION: What would be the probabilities of retrieving

such a satellite?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: Our scientists are working on this problem at present and most probably it will be solved in time.

MR. LEVINE: May I interject a question here, which I am sure interests many American youths: If there is a failure in such a launching, will it be announced?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: Up until now we have had no failures. We hope that we will meet with no failures and all measures are being taken to make the launching of every Sputnik a success.

QUESTION: What information have you gained in medical science from Leika, the Sputnik dog?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: Physiologists were very interested in knowing how Leika would behave when Sputnik reached its orbit, how it would behave in the flight to the orbit and how it would stand the state of weightlessness. The data we received was very favorable in that respect. As long as the apparatus on the Sputnik was working and was sending down the information to earth, we knew that Leika felt normally and everything was going just as it should.

MR. LEVINE: Professor Blagonravov, Leika was the first dog entering into space. Will the first man into space be a Soviet man?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: We hope that the first man in the

cosmos will be a Soviet man.

QUESTION: Doctor, can you give us a more definite outline of the Soviet part in the IGY program as originally mapped out?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: Soviet scientists took a very active part in the International Geophysical Year. We have sent expeditions to the Artartic, we have oceanological expeditions, we have probed the upper layers of the atmosphere with rockets and during this year we hope to launch more Sputniks.

Soon there will be an assembly of the IGY here in Moscow and there will be a full exchange of information. We are expecting American scientists here and we hope to have a full exchange of information at this assembly.

MR. LEVINE: Professor Blagonravov, American young people such as these have had their eyes glued to a certain portion of the coastline of Florida during these past months.

Will some of the information to be exchange at this meeting include the revelation of where Soviet Sputniks are launched from?

DR. BLAGONORAVOV: You see the place where the Sputniks are launched from does not play any important role in investigations. We give quite detailed data on the orbit which allows people to follow it and get the necessary information.

MR. LEVINE: Why the reluctance, though, to announce the

place of launching?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: We spoke about this when I was in the States, and the American scientists agree with me that this has practically no significance at all.

QUESTION: My question has partially been answered, but maybe you could give me a more detailed answer: How are the other nations of the world being informed of Soviet discoveries?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: We are under an obligation to publish information on the launching of the Sputnik and we give the necessary information in the press and over the radio so that stations all over the world could carry on the required observations. It requires very much work to sift through, analyze and carry on the necessary research with the data received from the Sputniks. To draw, or acquire the necessary conclusions from the data obtained requires very much time. At present we are preparing a full report on the information received from the Sputniks. This information will be passed on to our American colleagues at the assembly which I have mentioned already, and which will be held on the 30th of July.

QUESTION: How much information is given to your own people, the Russians?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: The Soviet people glean all the information from the press and also from several magazines such as the "Successes of Physical Sciences," and also

in the bulletins of the International Geophysical Year, but of course the data in these magazines is much more scientific than that which is found in the press.

QUESTION: Do you feel that you are getting complete cooperation from the other nations as far as information goes?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: I think today we do not have a sufficiently full exchange of information because we never have plenary or a general get-together of all the scientists, and the coming assembly will be a first step in this direction. The program that each separate nation has worked out in the International Geophysical Year will definitely enrich science and no one country could get the full required information and data unless it exchanged the information it received with the other countries, and at such an assembly such an exchange will take place.

QUESTION: Sir, what do you consider to be your most outstanding peacetime use of atomic energy?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: The main thing in the peaceful use of atomic energy is to make atomic energy serve the people, the nation at large to the full. The first step in that direction was made in 1954 when we commissioned the first electric power plant based on atomic energy. At present, more powerful stations are under construction, stations with a capacity of up to 60,000 kilowatts.

QUESTION: Doctor, what emphasis is placed on pure

nuclear research as opposed to practical development?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: The Academy of Sciences is the organization that is concerned with basic, or with pure science. There are 205 research institutions under the Academy of Sciences working on the basic problems of research. Then there is a series of institutions which are connected directly with industry and they are concerned with working on problems of a practical nature.

QUESTION: In connection with medicine, how has nuclear physics aided the research in cancer and in other diseases?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: In medicine we used modern methods of cure. For instance, we use cobalt therapy in medicine at present. Radioactive isotopes play a very important role in physiology and in medicine in general and give our doctors an opportunity to study the metabolism of an organism and this of course is of great help in our work.

QUESTION: In connection with a final cure, an effective cure for cancer, how soon can you predict that you may or may not have this cure?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: It is hard to say at present when this scourge of mankind will be finally overcome. But the successes made in curing the first stages of cancer, the successes in that field are very great indeed.

QUESTION: Professor, you recently returned from a tour of the United States. What was your opinion of the

American scientific institutions?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: I did not have a chance to get acquainted very widely with the research institutions, but I did attend the Naval Laboratory which equips the satellites with the various apparatus and equipment. I was very favorably impressed with American computers and everything connected with them.

QUESTION: Professor, do you feel that the American scientist is freer to follow his own way in science than the Soviet scientist is? Is there more of a government-controlled program for the Soviet scientist?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: I think we have here a rather incorrect conception as to how Soviet scientists work. Every scientist has the opportunity and the ability to make his corrections, to make his additions to the plan, to the work of the institution, of the organization where he happens to be working. Whatever the scientist may suggest is usually included in the plan of work of this or that organization and he is not only granted every possibility and every material assistance, but he is also given people as assistants to help him in his research. Every scientist here in this country considers it his duty to work on problems which would directly help raise living standards and raise the well-being of the country in general. Our scientists naturally pay more attention to problems of this

nature.

QUESTION: Doctor, do you think the curriculum now offered in the higher education in Russia meets the needs of the present scientific age?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: We can not find fault with the graduates which we get from our higher educational establishments. And to become a real scientist, a scientist in the full sense of the word, every young man or woman graduating from our colleges has to go through a further period of study, has to continue his term of study to become a real scientist.

For instance, in the technical field, a person after graduating college, a technical college, usually works two years at the job that is in industry and only after that he goes through a three-year post-graduate course under the guidance of a senior scientific research worker. After that he defends his thesis which he individually works on and gets the title of Candidate of Sciences.

QUESTION: Doctor, in the first ten years of school, is the curriculum concentrating on science or does it include a variety of other subjects as well?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: In the past few years the emphasis has been to give students in our high schools, in what we call our 10-year secondary schools, a general, or a polytechnical education, and to prepare them for practical

activity after graduation. Amongst the subjects studied in our high schools besides the scientific subjects, the students also take such subjects as history, geography, literature, geology and so on.

QUESTION: What is the ratio of men to women scientists, and are they trained equally?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: There are many women scientists in the Soviet Union. Among the 261,000 scientists, 82,000 are women.

(Further answer not interpreted)

MR. LEVINE: We have time for just one very quick question.

QUESTION: Do you feel that it is important for science students to have a broad education on the higher university level?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: Definitely.

MR. LEVINE: Since the answer was so brief, we have time for still one more.

QUESTION: Are young Soviet scientists permitted to study in foreign universities?

DR. BLAGONRAVOV: We have often exchange students and scientific workers. We have an agreement of this nature, say, with Great Britain. They sent their scientific workers and students to come to the Soviet Union and study and we send outs to Great Britain. Unfortunately we have no such

agreement with the United States as yet.

MR. LEVINE: Dr. Blagonravov, we are very grateful to you for providing the answers that YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW, and we thank you for being our guest today.

This is one of a series of special programs from Soviet Russia. Join us again next week when another prominent Soviet personality will be interviewed by American students.

And now this is Irving R. Levine in Moscow bidding you good bye on behalf of Theodore Granik.

THE ANNOUNCER: For reprints of today's discussion, send ten cents to Ransdell, Inc., Printers and Publishers, Washington 18, D. C.

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